

## **NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Minutes of the meeting on September 9, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Pam Knox at 6:35 pm.

- I. ROLL CALL:** Present were Commissioners Pam Knox, Ruth Ruttenberg, Leslie Matthews, Christine Barnes, and Laura Hill-Eubanks. Also attending were Laura Ranker (Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission - CVRPC) and Nathan Ranker.
- II. SET/ADJUST AGENDA:** changes made as reflected below
- III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (scheduled):**
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** August 12, 2015 minutes approved 4-0-1
- V. DISCUSSION**

- a. Town Forest Plan: – Proposal selection for grant work, sign grant**

The NCC voted 5-0-0 to accept the proposal by Arrowwood Environmental to perform a natural resources inventory of the Northfield Municipal Forest and assist with preparing a Stewardship Plan using the grant money the NCC was awarded by the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program. Ruth will contact Arrowwood to finalize the plan. Leslie and Russ will show the ecologist the forest. NCC will forward the ecologist the information and studies we have on the forest.

Nathan Ranker and the NCC discussed his ideas for developing signage for the municipal forest. A kiosk and interpretive signs are options. Ruth will forward Nathan more information about the requirements for the Association of Conservation Commissions grant. Laura H will forward trail maps and studies that have been conducted. Nathan would like Leslie and Russ to show him the main areas of interest in the forest; they will follow up with email to plan an outing. Christine would like to be included.

- b. Northfield Urban Community Forest Program:** Laura Ranker from CVRPC is assisting NCC with the draft Urban Forest Management Plan as part of the grant received from VT UCF. The newest draft was distributed and discussed. A draft will be sent to Rose Beatty and Elise Schadler. Dan Currier will prepare a map of areas of interest for tree planting. The final draft should be finished by September 30. NCC should look over the current draft and send comments to Laura R. by next week, September 18. Elise will facilitate stakeholder meetings and adoption by the town. Laura H will forward a link to Laura R for documents related to town surveys to be used for references in the plan. NCC should give Laura R

feedback on the draft and any missing information, the graphics, and the documents that Laura R distributed for potential use in the Appendix.

- c. **Wellfield Site Plan Maintenance:** Christine and Russ worked with the Friends of the Winooski River to clear knotweed from around the new trees at the wellfield. This will be a monthly effort. Loppers and other implements will be requested on Front Porch Forum for the future work.
- d. **November meeting on Veterans Day:** NCC will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at its normal time.
- e. **Water Street Park:** Christine updated the NCC on the planning for a proposal for the Water Street Park area. Education will be a focus. Michele Braun is continuing to work on grant proposals for the Park.
- f. **Brownfields:** Laura will follow up with the Northfield brownfields committee. She is going to work on the CVRPC brownfields committee that will oversee process of assessment of brownfields in the region, including those in Northfield.
- g. **Paine Mountain trails:** A request has been made to clear along the side of certain trails in the Municipal Forest. Pam will ask Russ to look at the areas; Leslie agreed to work with Russ in determining appropriate places for work along the trails at Butternut Junction and any other potential areas.
- h. Ruth purchased books on forests, trees, and forest pests as part of the Urban Forest grant. Pam will deliver them to the School Library and hopes to bring them during a staff meeting so teachers will know about the new resources.

## **VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED):**

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Hill-Eubanks, Northfield Conservation Commission.

These minutes are subject to changes and approval at the next regular meeting, but are substantially correct.